

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior listings and versions of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An absorbent article, comprising a unitary system of microlayered film constructed and arranged for performing ~~the~~ multiple functions of such absorbent article, said system comprising;

at least one first microlayer film region having a liquid intake function,

~~at least one second microlayer film region having a liquid uptake and distribution function,~~

at least one ~~third~~ second microlayer film region having a liquid retention function, and

at least one ~~fourth~~ third microlayer film region having a liquid barrier function,

said at least one first microlayer film region having a construction that is at least in part different from the construction of said at least one second microlayer film region and of said at least one third microlayer film region.

2. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 1, in which at least ~~two~~ one of said first, second, and third microlayer film regions ~~are~~ is coextruded and assembled with at least one different one of said ~~the other of said~~ first, second, and third microlayer film regions to form the unitary microlayered film system.

3. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of claim [[2]] 44, in which said first and ~~second~~ fourth microlayer film regions are coextruded to form a first multilayered film subsystem unit.

4. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of claim [[2]] 3, in which said ~~third~~ second and ~~fourth~~ third microlayer film regions are coextruded to form a second subsystem unit.

5. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 2, in which all of said first, second, and third ~~and fourth~~ microlayer film regions are coextruded to form the unitary microlayered film system.

6. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 2, in which at least one of said second or third microlayer film regions is coextruded with ~~at least one of said first or fourth~~ microlayer film ~~regions~~ region.

7. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said first microlayer film region comprises a bodyside liner having an open area from about 30% to about 90% of the bodyside liner, ~~said second microlayer film region has a density from about 0.015g/cc to about 0.05 g/cc,~~ and said ~~fourth~~ third microlayer film region comprises a liquid barrier outer cover sheet.

8. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, in which said microlayer film regions each comprise at least two microlayers forming a laminate.

9. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 8, in which the laminate comprises a thermoplastic melt extendable elastomer microlayer and a melt extendable non-elastic polymer microlayer.

10. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 9 wherein the laminate includes a multiplicity of alternating elastomer and non-elastic polymer microlayers.

11. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 10, in which the laminate is constructed and arranged to be stretched after coextrusion to form multiple film corrugations.

12. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of claim [[11]] 44 wherein at least two of said microlayer film regions have microchannels therein.

13. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 12, in which at least the second and ~~third~~ fourth microlayer film regions have microchannels therein.

14. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 13 wherein the first microlayer film region is substantially free of microchannels.

15. (Currently amended) An absorbent article as set forth in claim ~~14~~ 47 wherein the fourth microlayer film region is substantially free of microchannels.

16. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 13 wherein the microchannels in the ~~third~~ second microlayer film region have a smaller mean size than microchannels in the ~~second~~ fourth film region.

17. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 13 wherein the microchannels in the ~~third~~ second microlayer film region have a smaller mean size than any microchannels in the first, ~~second~~ third and fourth microlayer film regions.

18. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 10, in which said ~~third~~ second microlayer film region further includes a superabsorbent.

19. Cancelled.

20. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein the absorbent article is a personal care product.

21. (Original) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 20 wherein the personal care product is one of a diaper, an adult incontinence product, a training pant, a feminine hygiene product and a wound dressing.

22. (Currently amended) An absorbent article comprising a liquid intake region, ~~a liquid uptake and distribution region,~~ a liquid retention region and a barrier region, at least the liquid retention region and the barrier region each comprising microlayer films, the liquid retention region

having a construction that is at least in part different from the barrier region.

23. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 22 wherein the retention region is formed entirely of microlayer film.

24. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 23 wherein at least one other of said regions is formed of microlayer film.

25. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 22 wherein at least one of the regions is free of microlayer film.

26-39. Cancelled.

40. (Currently amended) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the first microlayer film region includes perforations, and wherein the ~~fourth~~ third microlayer film region is substantially free of perforations.

41 (Previously presented) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the first microlayer film is substantially non-delaminated, and wherein at least one of the other regions is at least partially delaminated.

42. (Currently amended) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 22 ~~wherein~~ further comprising a liquid uptake and distribution region ~~includes~~ including perforations, and

wherein the barrier region is substantially free of perforations.

43. (Previously presented) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 22 wherein the intake region is a substantially non-delaminated microlayer film, and wherein the liquid retention region is at least partially delaminated.

44. (New) The absorbent article of claim 1, further comprising at least one fourth microlayer film region having a liquid uptake and distribution function.

45. (New) The absorbent article of claim 1, in which said at least one second microlayer film region has a construction that is at least in part different from the construction of said at least one first microlayer film region and of said at least one third microlayer film region.

46. (New) The absorbent article of claim 45, in which said at least one third microlayer film region has a construction that is at least in part different from the construction of said at least one first microlayer film region and of said at least one second microlayer film region.

47. (New) An absorbent article, comprising a unitary system of microlayered film constructed and arranged for performing the multiple functions of such absorbent article, said system comprising;

at least one first microlayer film region having a liquid intake function,
at least one second microlayer film region having a liquid uptake and distribution function,
at least one third microlayer film region having a liquid retention function, and
at least one fourth microlayer film region having a liquid barrier function,
the second and third microlayer film regions each having microchannels therein, said first microlayer film region being substantially free of microchannels.

48. (New) An absorbent article, comprising a unitary system of microlayered film constructed and arranged for performing the multiple functions of such absorbent article, said system comprising;

at least one first microlayer film region having a liquid intake function,
at least one second microlayer film region having a liquid uptake and distribution function,
at least one third microlayer film region having a liquid retention function, and
at least one fourth microlayer film region having a liquid barrier function,
the second microlayer film region having microchannels therein wherein the microchannels have a mean size, the third microlayer film region having microchannels therein wherein the microchannels of the third microlayer film region have a mean size smaller than the mean size of the microchannels of the second microlayer film region.

49. (New) An absorbent article, comprising a unitary system of microlayered film constructed and arranged for performing the multiple functions of such absorbent article, said system comprising;

at least one first microlayer film region having a liquid intake function,

at least one second microlayer film region having a liquid uptake and distribution function,

at least one third microlayer film region having a liquid retention function, and

at least one fourth microlayer film region having a liquid barrier function,

each of the microlayer film regions having microchannels therein wherein the microchannels of each respective microlayer film region has a mean size, the mean size of the microchannels in the third microlayer film region being smaller than the mean size of the microchannels in each of the first, second, and fourth microlayer film regions.

50. (New) An absorbent article, comprising a unitary system of microlayered film constructed and arranged for performing the multiple functions of such absorbent article, said system comprising;

at least one first microlayer film region having a liquid intake function,

at least one second microlayer film region having a liquid uptake and distribution function,

at least one third microlayer film region having a liquid retention function, and

at least one fourth microlayer film region having a liquid barrier function,

said third microlayer film region comprising a laminate and a superabsorbent, the laminate comprising a multiplicity of alternating thermoplastic melt extendable elastomer microlayers and melt extendable non-elastic polymer microlayers,

said elastomer microlayers, said non-elastic polymer microlayers and said superabsorbent being coextruded together.

51. (New) The absorbent article of claim 1, in which the first microlayer film region has a plurality of perforations therein for allowing liquid to pass therethrough, the first microlayer film region defining a bodyside liner of the absorbent article, the third microlayer film region being substantially impermeable to liquids and defining a barrier liner of the absorbent article.

52. (New) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 51 wherein the second microlayer film region is disposed between the bodyside liner and the barrier liner.